should be brought into existence, as such a Government would not act against public interests. The reply "no" given to an interpellation at a recent meeting of the Legislative Council whether there had not arisen the necessity for an Executive Council was rather surprising. The Member then drew the attention of Government to the collapse of the Thondara bridge, the undesirable condition of the engines, &c., of the Trivandrum-Quilon Railway, the crack in the Law College building, the recent destruction of temples by fire and the like, and said that all these would not have been possible if there had been responsible Government. Further, the Member said that the experience and knowledge of the people would be of great help to the Dewan who generally came from outside, and submitted that the people had discharged satisfactorily the various duties entrusted to them, such as those of members of Municipal Councils and Judges of Village Panchayat Courts. The principle of responsible Government having been accepted in British India, the Member suggested the desirability of introducing responsible Government in the State in view to the well-being of the people who, in the matter of educational advancement, were in the forefront as compared with other parts of India.

*Mr. G. Govindan Nair B. A. & B. L.* (Member, Municipal Council, Quilon) said that the Travancore Legislative Council which was created 33 years ago was reformed ten years later, and that, owing to the great changes since brought about in the people's outlook by the spread of democratic ideas, the demand for responsible Government had become universal and irresistible. The people were dissatisfied with Regulation I of 1095, as also with the manner of its promulgation, and represented that there was much force in the opinion that an efficient Committee with a non-official majority should be empowered to draw up the constitution afresh. The Member made the following suggestions for the consideration of such a Committee:—

(1) The franchise and functions, the composition and rules of the Legislative Council, should be determined only by Regulations made on the advice of a mixed Committee with a majority of elected members.

(2) A wider franchise should be allowed. Every one who pays an annual tax of Rs. 10, every one with an annual income of Rs. 500, and every graduate should have a vote.

(3) The Council should have a substantial elected majority.

(4) The Council should be empowered to move resolutions and to divide the Council on them. Resolutions on the Budget ought to be binding on Government.

(5) The strength of the Council should be 50. One-half of this number should be returned from the five Divisions of the State. Two-thirds of the Council should be elected and not more than one-fourth should be officials.

(6) As the first step in the realisation of responsible Government there should be at least two Ministers with portfolios, elected by and answerable to the Council.

*Dewan's reply.*—I have heard with very great interest the speeches made by the Members. You will agree with me in saying that it will not be possible for me now to say anything more than what I have said in the opening speech.

**30. Legislation in Travancore.**

*Mr. Ayappan Krishnan* (Member, Kartikapalli Taluk) said that legislation in this country was carried on in two ways, *viz.*, by Regulations passed through the Council and by Rules framed by the Dewan. The Member represented that public opinion was not, as a rule, taken before the introduction of laws and rules and that consequently the public suffered much hardship. To remedy the existing evils, the Member made the following suggestions :—

(1) The present Legislative Council Regulation should be modified by making provision for a non-official majority and enacting that no Regulation should be passed without the support of the non-officials.



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(2) The draft of every set of rules proposed to be passed by the Dewan should be published in the Gazette at least six months in advance, with a view to obtain public opinion and they should be passed only after taking the opinion of the non-official members of the Council. The Member also prayed that the rules recently issued enhancing the following fees and changes might be cancelled :—

(*a*) Registration fees.
(*b*) Process fees and copying fees.
(*c*) Anchal charges.
(*d*) License fees in markets.
(*e*) Tariff rates of timber.

*Dewan's reply.*—The representation of the Member is noted.

**31. Necessity for introducing without further delay a Bill defining and regulating marriage, succession, partition, and family management in the Nanjanad Vellala tarwads.**

*Mr. Easvara Pillai Chitraputra Pillai* (Member, Agastiswaram Taluk) said that the Nanjanad Vellalas were originally Pandi Vellalas and that they were makkathayees. But in course of time after their settlement in Nanjanad they allowed themselves to be governed by the Marumakkathayam law of inheritance. They were not, however, pure Marumakkathayees and they followed a system which was a blending of Makkathayam and Marumakkathayam. The Member stated that it was high time that a law regulating their customs was enacted with provisions relating to the following matters :—

(1) Individual partition ;
(2) daughters should have a right of inheritance with the sons ; and
(3) divorce should be allowed ;
  (*a*) if the husband and wife cannot live together ;
  (*b*) if any of the couple be subject to some incurable disease ; and
  (*c*) if unchastity on the part of the wife or cruelty on the part of the husband be proved.

The Member said that the Nanjanad Vellala Committee was not properly constituted, as the President was a marumakkathayee and the members were the same as those that sat on the old Committee. He submitted that, if the Government considered it necessary that a fresh Committee should enquire into their customs and make a report to Government, it should be given a President chosen from makkathayees and that it should have at least 10 members selected from those who had disapproved of the report of the old Committee and the Bill based on it.

*Dewan's reply.*—Noted.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-30 P. M.

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